

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Action dated August 14, 2003.

The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the Final Action, claims 1-8 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1-8 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**§103 Rejections**

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimura et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,349,479) in view of Yao et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,802,243).

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimura in view of Yao and further in view of Beavers et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,307,701).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1 and 6) are patentable over Arimura, Yao and Beavers.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a video tape recording/reproducing device and a video tape reproducing device. Each of the claims recites that the device includes a driving means for driving a video tape at a predetermined running speed and a rotatable drum having a plurality of magnetic heads for reproducing video data from the tape. Further, each of the claims recites that "the video data is recorded on the video tape in the form of multiple tracks," and that "the magnetic heads are arranged in pairs, the heads in each pair are spaced apart by about one track width, and the heads in each pair have about the same azimuth angle." (emphasis supplied)

Neither Arimura, Yao nor Beavers discloses a rotating drum based video tape apparatus wherein the rotating drum includes a multiple of magnetic heads that are arranged in pairs such that heads in each pair are spaced apart by about the width of one recorded data track and have about the same azimuth angle. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Arimura, Yao and Beavers - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Claims 2-5 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 2-5 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 7 and 8 depend on claim 6. Since claim 6 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 7 and 8 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 6.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.


If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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